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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
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TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #11

Legislation: On Tuesday both Houses of Congress agreed to the conference report on H. R. 2102 to continue the Farm Labor supply program for 6 months (through December 31, 1947) and provide for its final liquidation. The bill is now on President Truman's desk.

The first weekly information letter "Farm Jobs from Gulf to Great Lakes" regarding current work opportunities for migrants in 14 North and South Central States was issued April 15 by E. C. McInnis from Little Rock, Arkansas. Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa and Louisiana reported need for workers. Six information stations supporting this program are now operating. They are located at Corning and Springdale, Arkansas; Anna and Brookport, Illinois; Sikeston, Missouri and Vinita, Oklahoma.

It is no longer necessary to fill out question 8 on the Monthly State Farm Labor Report, EFL Form No. 15, since the Selective Service Act was discontinued April 1, 1947. There is no other change in the use of EFL Form 15 at this time. We will continue to use the supply now on hand.

Oregon is continuing to go after farm labor housing in a big way. State Supervisor Beck reports 6 barracks buildings bought at Gowan Field, Boise, for labor camps in Malheur county; 11 buildings bought by the Central Oregon Growers at Redmond airbase for potato harvest camps in 3 counties; negotiations for 30 more buildings at the Salem airbase; purchase of a half million feet of lumber from Camp Adair buildings for on-the-farm housing in the Willamette Valley; orders for 140 buildings, in addition to a previous 120-building order, at the Tule Lake center to be used by Klamath Potato Growers with 200 pyramidal tents obtained from army surplus.

State Supervisor Whippen, New Hampshire, reports a total attendance of 6,628 farmers and farm home makers at a series of 11 labor saving shows in that state. The display included 53 educational panels (4 by 6 feet each) and more than 60 pieces of labor saving equipment, all transported in 3 trucks. A staff of 7 members including 3 drivers, made the tour of about 1,000 miles. "Even the most skeptical county agents are now in complete accord with the idea and are outspoken in their praise of the undertaking", Mr. Whippen writes.

The current issue of Mrs. Martha P. Buttrick's Victory Farm Volunteer, presents an enlightening summary of achievements of youth in farm work in Vermont last year. Of the 590 youth from 6 or more states, 478 (81 plus percent) are rated as satisfactory workers. They were employed 4,144 weeks during which they earned \$39,268 to top their valuable work experience. Vermont farmers are pleased with Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and other VFV's and want them back, Mrs. Buttrick writes.

State Supervisor Herbison, North Dakota, writing in his 1946 annual report comments that the "old fashioned farm labor service that concerned itself with getting a man to take a job, and finding another to take his place when he quit, is gone forever". In its place, he says, there "has come a realization that successful farm management entails the proper combination of land, labor and capital". For the future, he believes, "public farm labor program assistance can do its greatest good in the field of education, public information and cooperative research or demonstration practices affecting (1) employer-employee relationships (2) mechanization of farm and field operations, and (3) honest information made currently available to the general public on the subject of labor needs and conditions of employment offered from time to time". The main challenge to Extension and research people from here out," Herbison says, "lies in how well we continue to appreciate the fact that labor, capital and land all work together in any successful scheme of farm management and that any two without the third, go nowhere". The part "that labor plays", he concludes, "has been too long forgotten until war forced us to recognize its relative position to land use".

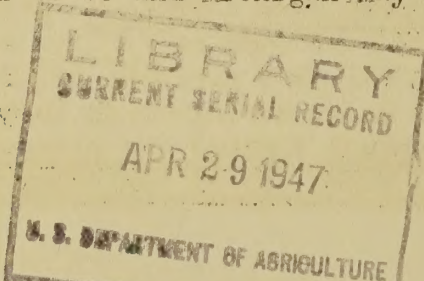
"Farmers are still getting good results by advertising for year-round workers in Philadelphia (Pa.) newspapers. At least 20 answers are received for every advertisement", says I. N. Lippincott, Burlington county agent, in the New Jersey state farm labor news letter.

In South Dakota's Farm Labor program 7 one-day tractor schools, designed for city-town youth interested in farm work during the summer, are scheduled this month in eastern counties by Zach Wipf, assistant state supervisor. Representatives of manufacturers and service organizations are cooperating in instruction. Only fundamentals in operation and maintenance are taught.

R. W. Oberlin, recruitment and placement division chief, left Monday for a field trip which will take him to Missouri, April 22-24; Nebraska, 25-28; Kansas, April 29-May 2; Oklahoma, May 3 and Arkansas May 4-5. He will confer with state farm labor staffs, visit migratory labor information centers and in Kansas will attend the annual spring wheat harvest conference. It starts at Wichita, April 29 and terminates at Manhattan, May 2 and includes stops at Dodge City and Hays.

Dr. L. M. Vaughan is leaving Sunday, April 23 for Wyoming where he will join C. G. Gaylord, western area director, in a labor utilization field trip which will take them to Colorado, April 29-30; Idaho, May 1-3; Washington, May 6-7; Oregon, May 8-10; California, May 12-17 and Utah, May 19-20. Dr. Vaughan is due back in Washington on May 23.

John Hervey, recruitment and placement assistant chief, spent three days last week in New York where he conferred with State Supervisor Hanks and others concerning management of migratory labor camps by farm labor associations. He is in Ohio, April 25-30 and Michigan May 1-7.



(Copy to: State supervisors)

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

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Farm Labor Program